

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A device to protect the neck and the base of the skull of a person from injury during physical activities, the device comprising:

- a) a first impact-resistant pliable substrate whereby said substrate is adapted to encircle an extended portion of the person's neck and lower cranium;
- b) straps extending from said substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck.

2. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the closure of the straps results in the juxtaposition of a rigid planar substrate overlying the person's trachea, wherein the planar substrate is attached to one of said straps.

3. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a second substrate underlaying the first substrate.

4. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a means for reversibly attaching to a helmet.

5. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the device is integrally molded to a helmet.

6. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 3 whereby the second substrate is less rigid than said first substrate, further said second substrate is adapted to receive fluid.

7. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the second substrate comprises a plurality of reversibly deformable substrates.

8. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the first substrate, the second substrate, and the straps are radio-translucent.

9. (Original) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the substrate is defined by an arcuate outer shell overlaying a cushioning substrate.

10. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein reversibly deformable material is integrally molded with said first substrate.

11. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3 including a means for regulating fluid flow through the second substrate.

12. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the first substrate and the second substrate are integrally molded to each other.

13. (Original) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the second substrate is adapted to removably receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

14. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein said first substrate extends to a region below the person's seventh vertebra.

15. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first substrate is adapted to reversibly receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

16. (Original) A device for imparting physical protection and predetermined temperature to the human neck during physical activity, the device comprising:

a first impact-resistant substrate extending along the vertebra column of the region;

a second substrate integrally molded to the first substrate and extending along lateral portions of the neck; and

a means for positioning cold packs or hot packs within the device so as to effect the temperature of the neck.

17. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the first substrate is more rigid than the second substrate.

18. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the positioning means is a cavity defined by a portion of the second substrate, wherein the cavity is adapted to receive the cold packs or hot packs.

19. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the second substrate further comprises a plurality of straps, each of said straps terminating with complementary closure means and each of said straps having a length sufficient to encircle the front of the neck so as to facilitate engagement the closure means.

20. (Original) The device as recited in claim 19 further comprising a third substrate attached to one of said straps such that when the straps encircle the neck, the third substrate directly overlays a tracheal region of the neck.